

## Laurel Medical Malpractice Lawyer: Could Off-Label Prescribing Be Putting You at Risk?

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As [Laurel medical malpractice attorneys](#), we know that many patients are surprised to learn that some drugs prescribed by their doctor may not be approved by the Food and Drug Administration for their particular condition. This is known as “off-label prescribing.”

### *What Is Off-Label Prescribing?*

Off-label prescribing means that the drug is being used in a manner not specified in the FDA’s approved packaging label. Every prescription drug marketed in the U.S. carries a written label or report that details its approved uses and doses, which are based on the results of clinical studies that the drug maker submitted to the FDA.

Common types of off-label include:

- Prescribing a dose is significantly higher than the label recommendation;
- Prescribing a drug for a condition not listed on the label; and
- Prescribing a drug for a patient that is not part of a population included in the clinical trials listed on the label.

By law, physicians can prescribe approved drugs for any reason they think is medically appropriate, including off-label use. In fact, recent studies suggest that about one in five prescriptions are written “off label.” While some of these drugs are beneficial and supported by a wealth of scientific evidence, others can pose serious risks because they have not yet been proven to be safe and effective. As we mentioned in a previous blog post, [anti-psychotic medications](#) are frequently prescribed off-label, and their use in children and the elderly can be particularly dangerous.

### *When Is Off-Label Prescribing Negligent?*

With regard to off-label prescribing, the same laws of medical malpractice apply. The question will be whether any reasonable physician could have prescribed the drug for the particular use, based on the available information. Whether an off-label prescription satisfies the standard of care will depend on the amount and weight of evidence available to support the use and how the clinician used the available evidence.

To protect yourself from a medication error, we encourage you to ask your doctor if the FDA has approved the drug to treat your condition. If not, ask the doctor why the off-label drug is better than an FDA approved drug. You should also find if there is clinical evidence to support its use in your case and about the alternatives that may be available.

*The Laurel medical malpractice attorneys of [Hyatt & Weber, P.A.](#) understand the potentially devastating impact of a serious medical mistake. If you or someone you love has been injured*

*due to someone else's negligence, we are here to help. Our attorneys are experienced and dedicated to pursuing the compensation you deserve.*

*To better understand your rights, contact us today at [leads@hwlaw.com](mailto:leads@hwlaw.com) or 410-777-5707 for a free consultation.*